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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, KISL, PINS, PHUM, ECON, AG
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: ALGERIA SITREP, MAY 6

REF: ALGIERS 2571

1. SUMMARY

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
☐ Retain class'n
☒ Declassify
Change/classify to _____
with concurrence of _____
after _____
EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by SA Date 8/30/04

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} State

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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A. ALGERIA IS CALM FOLLOWING A DAY THAT WAS MARKED BY ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM INSTEAD OF THE NATION-WIDE PROTEST THAT HAD BEEN CALLED FOR. PRESIDENT BOUDIAF HAS CONDEMNED THE "ISOLATED CRIMINAL ACTS" AND PRAISED BOTH THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE ALGERIAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION.
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B. THE TRIAL OF THOSE CHARGED IN THE ATTACK ON THE NAVAL REPAIR FACILITY IN ALGIERS OPENED ON MAY 5 IN BLIDA. THE FLN HAS DECLARED IT WILL COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE RESTITUTION OF STATE PROPERTY BUT HAS PROTESTED THE REGIME'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SEIZE THE TWO FLN DAILIES, "EL MOUDJAHID" AND "ASH-SHAAB." THE FIS IN FRANCE WANTS LAWYER JACQUES VERGES TO REPRESENT THEM IN THEIR APPEAL OF THE DEATH SENTENCES GIVEN TO THIRTEEN FIS DEFENDANTS IN THE GUEMAR TRIAL.

2. SECURITY

ALGERIA IS CALM FOLLOWING A DAY THAT WAS MARKED BY ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM RATHER THAN THE NATION-WIDE PROTEST THAT HAD BEEN CALLED FOR. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT DURING A MEETING OF THE HIGH STATE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT MOHAMED BOUDIAF CONDEMNED THE "ISOLATED CRIMINAL ACTS" THAT HAD OCCURRED ON MAY 4-5 AND PRAISED THE ACTION OF THE SECURITY FORCES IN RESTORING PUBLIC ORDER. HE ALSO HAILED THE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE ALGERIAN PEOPLE IN DENOUNCING THE ACTS OF THOSE WHO HAD TRIED TO UNDERMINE THAT ORDER.

3. ADMIRALTY TRIAL

A. THE TRIAL OF THOSE CHARGED IN THE ATTACK ON THE NAVAL REPAIR FACILITY IN ALGIERS ON THE NIGHT OF 12-13 FEBRUARY 1992 OPENED ON MAY 5 IN BLIDA. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE EIGHT DEFENDANTS (ONE OF WHOM REMAINS AT LARGE) ARE CHARGED WITH PREMEDITATED MURDER AND WITH PLOTTING AGAINST THE AUTHORITY AND SECURITY OF A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. TEN PERSONS WERE KILLED DURING THE ATTACK, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.
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B. THE CAPTAIN WHO HEADED THE NAVAL FACILITY AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH NEGLIGENCE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. A COLLEAGUE HAD APPARENTLY CALLED HIM ON THE EVENING PRECEDING THE ATTACK AND WARNED THAT A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER

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WAS GOING TO LEAD AN ATTACK ON THE UNIT. THE CAPTAIN DID NOT TAKE THE THREAT SERIOUSLY AND REMAINED AT HOME.

4. FLN PROPERTIES (CONTINUED)

A. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE FLN HAS SAID IT WILL COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE RETURN OF STATE PROPERTY HELD BY POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PARTY PROTESTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SEIZE THE TWO FLN DAILIES, "EL MOUDJAHID" AND "ASH-SHAAB," CALLING THE MOVE "DISGUISED EXPROPRIATION FOR POLITICAL ENDS." ACCORDING TO THE FLN, THE PRINTING PRESSES REPRESENT GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES TO BE RETURNED TO THE STATE, BUT THE NEWSPAPER TITLES THEMSELVES BELONG TO THE PARTY. THE FLN SAYS IT WILL APPEAL THE DECISION ON THE NEWSPAPERS.

B. THE PRESS IS SPECULATING THAT THE PALAIS ZIGHOUT YUCEF, THE FLN PARTY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, MAY BECOME THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEWLY INSTALLED CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL. THIS WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS' UNWILLINGNESS TO HOLD THEIR MEETINGS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING (REFTEL).

5. FIS IN FRANCE ON GUEMAR VERDICTS

THE INDEPENDENT ARAB-LANGUAGE DAILY "AL Khabar" REPORTS THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIS IN FRANCE, ANOUAR HADDAM (NEPHEW OF HIGH STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER TEDJINI HADDAM), HAS DECIDED TO APPEAL BEFORE "INTERNATIONAL GROUPS" THE SENTENCES HANDED DOWN MAY 4 IN THE GUEMAR TRIAL. HADDAM HAS ASKED LAWYER JACQUES VERGES TO "PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE" OF THE CONDEMNED MEN. COMMENT: TO BE REPRESENTED BY THE SAME LAWYER WHO DEFENDED **KLAUS BARBIE** WOULD HARDLY HELP THE FIS'S IMAGE AT HOME OR ABROAD. CASEY

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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